financial assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure.

Ultras in NE

4751. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the activities of Ultras are on increase recently in North East; and

(b) the steps being taken to nab the Ultras and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Militant activities in Manipur and Tripura have shown an increase in recent past. The situation in rest of the North-East, including Assam and Nagaland, has shown a distinct improvement.

Steps taken by the Government to combat militancy in the North-East include, *inter alia*, deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

As per available information, during 1999 and till May 3, 2000, a total of 628 militants have been killed and 1862 arrested in the North-Eastern States.

ULFA's Shelter in Bhutan

4752. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement made by Assam Chief Minister that Bhutan is giving shelter to ULFA and Bodo militants;

(b) if so, what are Government's comments thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter with Government of Bhutan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reports indicate that there are camps

in Bhutan which are being used by ULFA and Bodo militants for safe havens, sanctuary and training purposes.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the King of Bhutan. The King has assured that Bhutan will not allow its territory to be used for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

Ban on PWG

4753. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken a decision to impose ban on the People's War Group (PWG); and

(b) if so, the action taken to co-ordinate and launch inter-State operations against the extremists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The matter is under examination.

(b) A co-ordinated action Group has recently been formed under the director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, for co-ordinating anti-naxalite operations among the affected States.

Ban on Lottery

4754. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to issue a total ban on the State-run-lotteries;

(b) if so, by what time;

(c) the details of the numbers of lotteries run by different State Governments, State-wise;

(d) the details of the agents working on behalf of the State Governments, State-wise, with the date of their appointment; and

(e) the details of the amount of tickets sold, State-wise alongwith the details of sole agencies concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999, which